

2021 March 12 #72

In This Issue

Message for the New Year 2021	1
Stewardship Month	2
Queensland Renovation	3
Prayer Weekend Seminar – NSW	3
Congratulations to Sam and Rebeka	4
On-line AUC Youth Convention	5
Victoria Conference Baptism	6
WA Baptism – Helen Milosavljevic	7
Wedding Congratulations	8
Schofields Property Back Fence Completed	8
Schofields Ensemble	8
Condolences	9
New South Wales Conference Delegation	9
90th Birthday Congratulations	10
General Conference New Year Letter 2021	11
History Video Now Available	11
Upcoming Events	12

Message for the New Year 2021

Greetings for the new year 2021—which is already well underway—from the office of the Australasian Union! God has been good, and despite the turmoil of the year 2020, we know that the Lord is faithful and has provided for the needs of His children.

At this time last year, there was only a hint of some trouble with a virus coming out of China and starting to spread. But soon it was to become a worldwide issue. When the lockdowns came, we mustered all our media production talent, and thank the Lord we have made many improvements in that area which will serve us well going forward.

However, what we do miss is gathering together. I hope that in 2021 we will be able to have more gatherings—indeed, there are more and more plans for events, and hopefully before too long we'll be back to having Union conferences again.

We would ask you to pray for our workforce, as we have some brethren waiting for their permanent residency visas, and meanwhile we are finding it more difficult to travel due to ever-changing border restrictions. In some cases, such as trans-Tasman, there is no realistic possibility of travel yet.

This year it is a personal goal of mine that we will ramp up the distribution of *The Great Controversy*, right across Australia and New Zealand. There has never been a time where the message of that book is more relevant than today. Please get in touch with me if you or your local church would like to do more to distribute *The Great Controversy*.

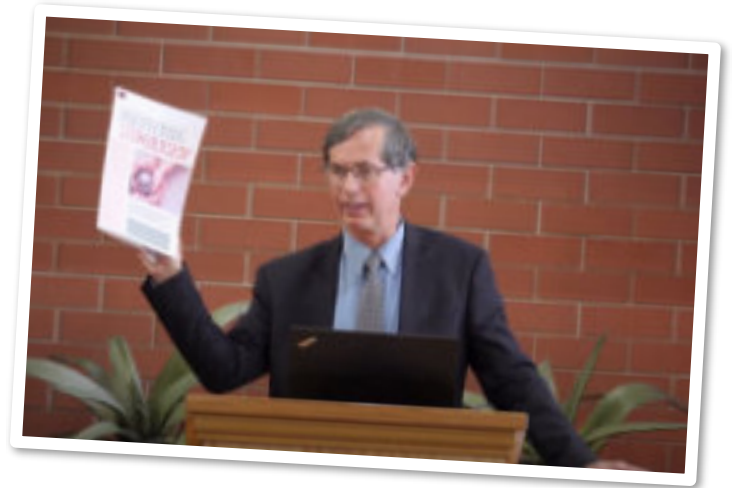
May God bless you and your family in 2021 as you come closer to Him. May you be filled with the peace of our Lord Jesus and be blessed with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

Nathan Tyler, Editor



UPLIFTING *Jesus*
SERVING *People*
PROCLAIMING *Truth*



Stewardship Month

The Australasian Union Conference decided to hold a special stewardship month throughout October 2020. Articles were prepared to be read during the Divine Service for each of the five Sabbaths. The titles of the readings were:

- "Thanksgiving: The Heart of Stewardship," by Br. Paul Chapman
- "Giving or Taking," by Br. Ben Thiel
- "Tithe: A Systematic Investment," by Br. Nathan Tyler
- "The Impact of Charitable Giving," by Br. Arnaldo Pedrosa
- "The System of Church Support," by Br. Rolly Dumaguit

These readings were very informative. They not only helped many to understand God's expectations from each of us with our tithes and offerings, but also provided us with a breakdown on how the work of God is financed by these offerings.

To catch up with these readings, you can download them here:

<https://www.sdarm.org.au/events/month-of-stewardship/>

There are also a few videos from the Month of Stewardship on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/SDARMAustralasia

For your information, following is a list of the offering allocations within the Australasian Union Conference:



Sabbath School Offerings:

- 1st Sabbath School Offering of each month – for General Conference projects
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sabbath School Offering – 25% RLPA (Union), 75% Conference/Field/ Churches Decision

Divine Service Church Offerings

- 1st Sabbath Church Offering – for local church
- 2nd Sabbath Church Offering – for Elim Heights Youth Camp
- 3rd Sabbath Church Offering – for local church
- 4th Sabbath Church Offering – for local church
- 5th Sabbath Church Offering – Mission Field / Field Conference to decide

Special Offerings

Fourth Sabbath

- 4th Sabbath of every month an extra offering to be collected for Pacific Island Mission Fields

Young People's Offerings

- 50% Union, 25% Field, 25% Local Church

Prayer Meeting Offerings

- For local church

Week of Prayer Offerings

- General Conference (new missions) – Send to Union

Dollar – A – Day Offering

- An offering to fund three departments of the Union; namely, Education, Health and Missionary Departments.

10% Dues on Local Offerings

- 10% Dues on Local Church Offerings to be forwarded to the Conference/Field, who in turn send 25% to the Union. (This was formerly called "tithe of offerings," but is not tithe per se, but instead is used for the respective departments at Conference and Union level).

Queensland Renovation

We have a few more photos and an updated fundraising thermometer showing that the renovation of the historic house at Clayfield is certainly coming along.



Prayer Weekend Seminar - NSW

On the first weekend in November, 2020, a special prayer seminar was held at Schofields Church and livestreamed for participants further afield.

Friday evening's meeting was entitled "Prayer in Days of Conflict," where we learned lessons from Israel's experience as recorded in 2 Chronicles 20:20.

Sabbath morning, "Catching the Vision" we were shown how prayer has played a key role in the history of the church, and what that means for us today.

The Sabbath afternoon session was occupied with musical items, testimonies, prayer sessions, and two short sermonettes: in "Effective Communion," we learned the importance of personal devotion and praise; in "Intercessory Prayer," we learned more about praying for one another.

If you missed it, you can catch up on these presentations at www.youtube.com/schofieldschurch

While I greatly appreciated the wonderful messages

presented, I was especially impressed by the time spent in prayer. We gathered in prayer groups and spent time both in individual prayer and praying together as a group. Through the use of Zoom, we were able to pray together with people that were not able to attend.



Hearing the messages and praying together really gave me an understanding of the duty that we have as individuals to pray and how prayer is a necessity for the church to survive and thrive. As we drew closer together through prayer, I saw that, in order to face the end times, we need to pray like we have never prayed before. The seminar has continued to touch my heart today, and it is my hope that through prayer we can come together in unity and be ready for Christ's return.

God bless, Cameron

Congratulations to Sam and Rebeka

We would like to congratulate Brother Sam Wiseman and Sister Rebeka Toth on their marriage.

Our great and wonderful God when He created Adam uttered these words found in Genesis 2:18, “...It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” Thus, humanity has been blessed with companionship ever since.

Sam shared the following about his proposal:

“On the morning of the 27th February 2020, we rose early and drove to Griffith NSW; we were going flying! Rebeka had her suspicions about possible special words being said.

*As we flew, my heart rate got faster, and faster and we discussed certain sights and situations, until we came over the Field where I had written out the words: **‘Will you marry me Beka?’** I told her to look down and see what she could read. A smile quickly came over her face as she turned back to me and said: **YES!!!***

God is very good and has blessed us with each other.

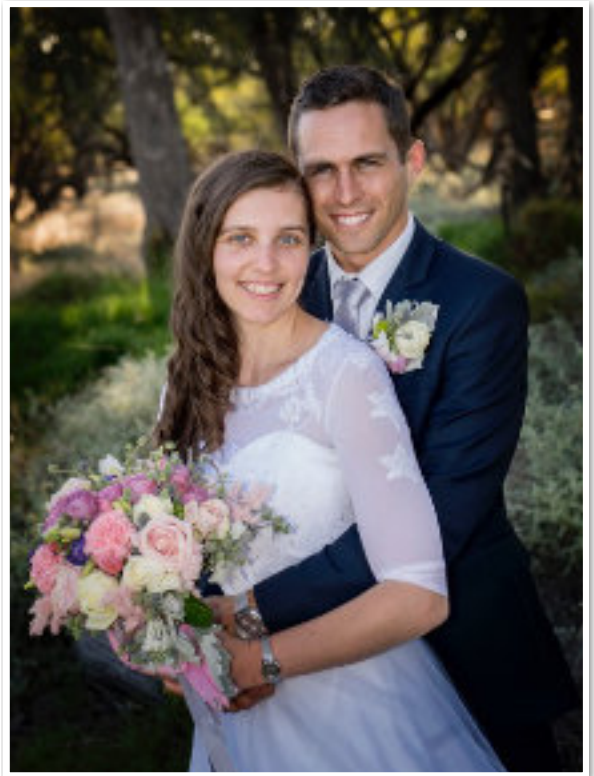
We ask for your prayers and ongoing support as we plan our lives together!”

Several wedding plans were made and subsequently cancelled, due to the ever-changing restrictions on events and travel. Finally, with travel looking possible, a sunrise beach wedding was planned in Wollongong. However, this had to be cancelled due to the COVID outbreak in Sydney.

After multiple attempts to gain a travel exemption, Rebeka was finally able to come to Australia in mid-December, spending two weeks in quarantine in Adelaide. Then on the 29th of December, family and friends gathered to witness their vows, in a lovely garden on a farm in rural New South Wales.

Here are some sentiments shared by Sam and Rebeka:

On the 29th of December, God finally opened the way for us both to pledge our lives to each other in holy matrimony. Our wedding took place in a beautiful private garden near Coleambally, NSW. The green lawn and the neat lake, made for a perfect backdrop to vow to each other before family and friends, followed by an amazing reception at our parent’s property in a marquee.

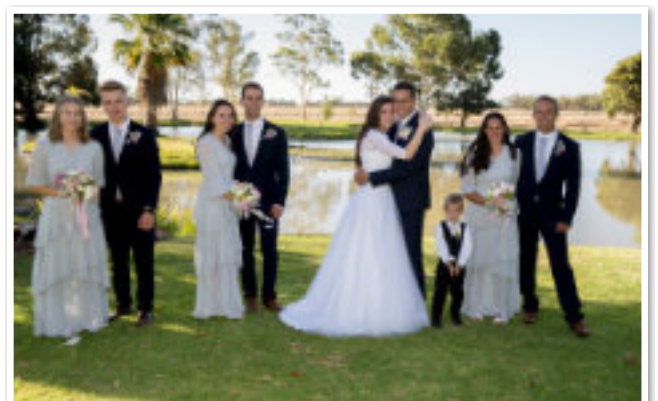


We have been through many struggles and trials to be together and are constantly amazed at how God lined up the miracles for it all to take place.

We thank everyone for their prayers and support, and we ask for continued prayers as we aim to live our lives in accordance with God’s will in this ever-changing world.

Your brother and sister in Christ, Sam and Rebeka Wiseman

May God truly bless Sam and Rebeka as they build together a little heaven here on earth.



On-line AUC Youth Convention

25-28 December 2020

This end of year youth conference was different to past conferences for the obvious reason that it was online instead of in person, with most of the meetings happening over Zoom and the odd one on YouTube. It took a bit of getting used to, but everyone quickly settled into the new format.

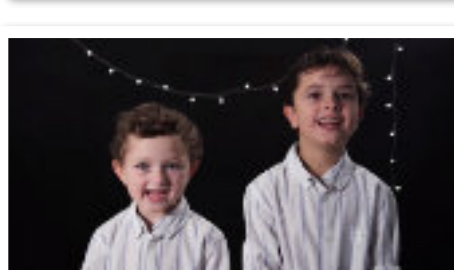
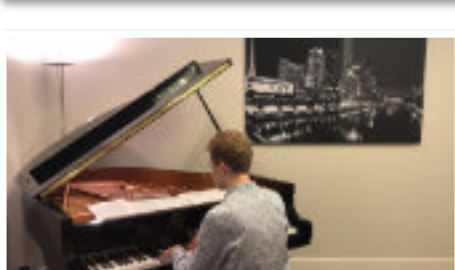
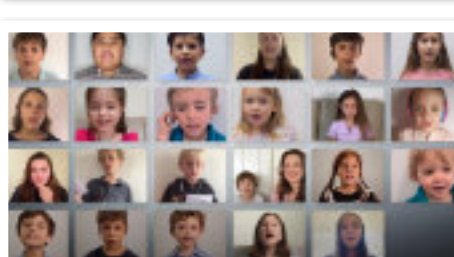
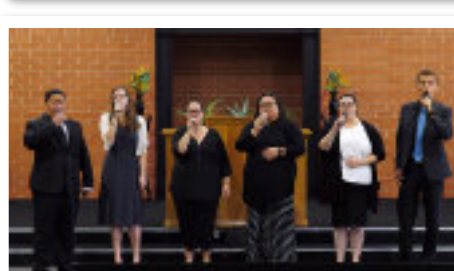
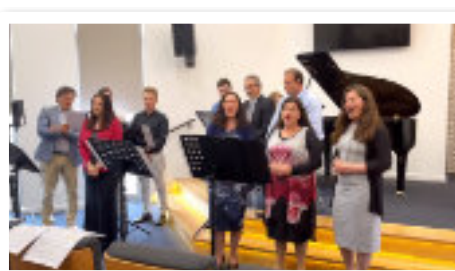
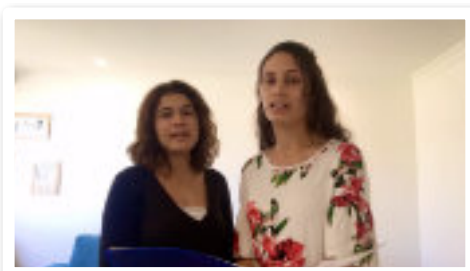
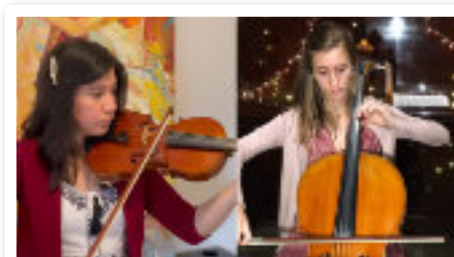
The theme of the conference was "Keeping it Real," and the worships and panel discussions focused on practical ways of building our relationship with Jesus and the importance of being authentic in our lives. One of the talks that really stood out to me was Br. Miguel's worship on Daniel, especially the part about focusing on the present, asking for help with the present problem or temptation, and not worrying if we will be ready for Jesus' coming, but aim to be right with the Lord today.



On Sunday there were online games and puzzles, and it was great to see people again for the first time in a while, although "seeing" being a relative term, as most people had their cameras off!

I really enjoyed the conference, and each meeting had something helpful and encouraging that stayed true to the Keeping it Real theme. They were even worth the 5 am wakeup for those from WA.

~ Submitted by Hannah Lausevic



Victoria Conference Baptism

20 February 2021



It was a beautiful and a joyful day where we saw that 5 souls—Victoria Kornja, Luiza Spirkoski, Lucas Spirkoski, Danni Spirkoski and Renato Spirkoski—were going to make the best decision of their lives through the rite of baptism.

Profession of faith - Keilor Park Church.

Due to Covid restrictions, the maximum number of people at Keilor Church was 60—it had not changed as per before the short lockdown, and we had to follow the guidelines to keep electronic attendance records and use face masks.

The candidates for baptism had family and friends whom they invited for the occasion; they were given preference to be in the

church building. We livestreamed this first part of the program so that other local church members and visitors would be able to watch it online.

This first part was led by Bro. Nathan Tyler who delivered a message and asked the five souls important questions on the Principles of Faith. A special item was presented by the Keilor Park Church choir. Recommendations were made by the members as a token of approval for the candidates' baptism. After that, we closed with a prayer and got ready to go to the river.

Baptism Ceremony - Brimbank Park river.

We started our second part, the baptism ceremony, at the Brimbank Park River. At the water, we shared the hymn number 530; then I read the scripture reading from Matthew 28:19. It was a short message of encouragement for the candidates who had made the decision to surrender their lives to our Lord. Then we made our way to the water, and as we got ready, we sang hymns 528, 513 and 512.



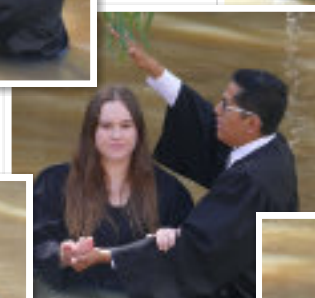
Soon the five candidates and I were in the water, and they were ready to be baptised. It was a nice experience to see them making this decision. Everyone was baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost according to Matthew 28:19. "There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by

living faith are baptized and these powers will cooperate with the obedient." *In Heavenly Places*, p. 336.

Then we went out of the water and prayed together followed by a session of pictures with them and their families. It was a unique experience. I felt so blessed to be part of this event, and I give thanks to the Lord for this opportunity. May His name be praised.

Fellowshipment – Maranatha Church

After that, we went to Maranatha Church where we were going to fellowship them as new members of our church. We had many special items, which gladdened our hearts. The five candidates were welcomed, fellowshiped and received lots of special gifts, flowers and a certificate of their baptism. It was just a special moment full of joy. We finished up with a hymn and a benediction. Finally, everyone had the opportunity to greet Victoria, Luiza, Lucas,



Danni and Renato at the end of the program. After that, we had a light dinner.

I think we all were blessed with this opportunity to see these beautiful souls publicly declaring that they live now to honour our Lord and Saviour and that they are dead to the world and the things it offers. Let's keep them and their families in our prayers!

A special thanks to all our interstate visitors who made an effort to be with us for this important event. The new members of the church really enjoyed your presence with us.

You can watch all of the programs on the following YouTube playlist link:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3oSBMV3DgYArfi5K23KHsKQbJG3UJGaC>



WA Baptism - Helen Milosavljevic

It was such a blessing and an encouragement to be able to witness the baptism of Helen Milosavljevic in Perth, Western Australia on Sabbath, 23 January 2021.

There were family and friends and church family in attendance as we all gathered on the Swan River to observe the occasion.

Helen gave a beautiful testimony sharing how that, even though she had stopped attending church for quite a few years, she still felt the Lord calling her. She had never stopped reading her Bible and praying and had felt a strong impression that the Lord was coming soon and that she

needed to make a decision to give her heart to the Lord and start coming back to church. She shared how she had seen many obstacles, seen many problems and had many questions, and that through

reading God's Word she had been reassured that it was the right place for her to be. She reiterated that each person in their own hearts have to make that decision for the Lord, because it does not matter whether we are born in the faith or not, that personal conviction has to be there because our church and our family cannot save us if we do not have the Lord within our own heart.

Helen shared Hebrews 12:2, Philippians 1:6, Philippians 2:12,13, Philippians 4:6-8 and 2 Timothy 3:15, which were verses that were very special to her in her journey.

We are very grateful to have Sr Helen back in our church fellowship and look forward to the times ahead, working together and looking for the return of our Saviour. We also pray that the Lord continues to work in a special way for her and her family.

~ Catherine Robles



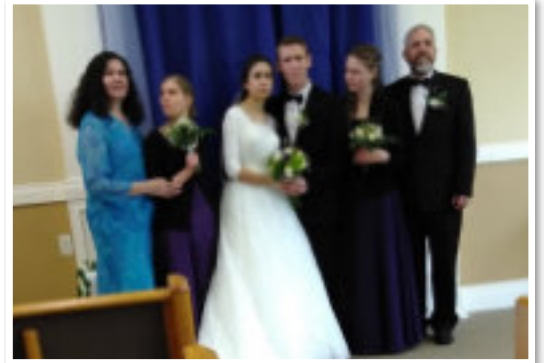


Wedding Congratulations

Congratulations to Matthew and Simoné Brown, who were married in California on the 19th February 2021, surrounded by family and friends.

Having built their friendship since attending Elim Missionary College together in 2020, Matthew and Simoné had to make a difficult decision about their plans, due to the uncertainty caused by ongoing travel restrictions. They decided to exchange vows before Matthew left California, and Simoné would try to get a ticket on the same flight.

By God's grace they were able to travel on the same plane as they had hoped. The newlyweds have now returned to Australia and are preparing for their new life together.



Schofields Property Back Fence Completed

For many years the Schofields property was bounded by a paddock on one side. But since the subdivision went in behind the church, there is now a street and a row of houses. Along with this came the need to upgrade the old tattered stock fence, which became a hazard and an eyesore.

In 2019, hardwood fencing was sourced from the sawmill in Colo Heights. The slings of timber sat waiting for a busy bee, for quite a number of months.

Finally, arrangements were made to finish the fence, with a combination of contract and volunteer labour. Construction was effectively completed in December 2020.

We want to acknowledge the leadership of Br Harold Kraus in coordinating the project, and personally putting in many hours to ensure its success. Thanks also to his family who missed him for a few Sundays as he worked on site to see the task completed.

Many thanks to all those who were involved in putting up the fence, which gave the back boundary a facelift and presents a better view to the neighbourhood.



Schofields Ensemble

An instrumental ensemble has formed, with practice weekly at Schofields Church. If you'd like to join, please contact Danica.



Condolences

We wish to express our deepest sympathies to Brother Larry Ah-Ching on the passing away of his father on 26th August 2020. Also, Brother Joe Voncina and Brother Paul Chapman, who have both lost their brothers during the month of December 2020. We pray God will be close to each of them and be their strength through this time of mourning.

Just as we prepare this edition of the newsletter, our dear brother Peter Jackson has passed away at his home in Griffith, NSW. Our hearts go out to his family and we pray that the Lord will give them comfort as this soldier of the cross is laid to rest. We will endeavour to publish a tribute to his life and work in God's cause in a future issue.

Death is a very cruel thing, and during our short life here on this earth no one is exempt from facing it some time or another. It was never God's intent for mankind to suffer, nor die, but because of the result of sin, we are all hurt by it. However, in God's mercy, death was conquered by our wonderful Saviour Jesus Christ. We must look forward to the time when death will be no more. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4.

Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus that we may be partakers of the glorious things that He has prepared for those who love Him.

New South Wales Conference Delegation

The biennial general meeting of the New South Wales Conference met on the 28th of February. New officers were elected and plans laid for the coming term. May the Lord bless the work in NSW.

Conference President	Paul Chapman
Vice President	Larry Ah-Ching
Secretary	Harold Kraus
Treasurer	Garry Kraus
ChurchSafe Coordinator	Harold Kraus
Missionary Department Leader	Craig Cunningham
Young People's Department Leader	Larry Ah-Ching
Sabbath School Department Leader	Robert Wiseman
Health Department Leader	Danica Tyler
Welfare Department Leader	Amy Gules



90th Birthday Congratulations

We wish to acknowledge a very special lady who is now 90 years young! Happy Birthday Sr. Weymark!

Elaine Dawn Heslop was born on the 12th of December 1930. In commemoration of such a wonderful milestone, we want to take this opportunity to thank her for her unselfish service to God in various capacities within the Australasian Union Conference (AUC) of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement and for continuing to be a blessing to our church family and others to this day.

Having been brought up in a God-fearing home, Elaine's love for God is evident in her undertakings in life. While yet a young lady, she chose to enter the service for the Lord by working at the AUC Office which was at that time located in Summer Hill. While working in the office, Elaine came to know Harold Eric Weymark, who later became her beloved husband on the 11th December 1951. Both Brother and Sister Weymark were very devoted in their ministry to serving God within the Australasian Union Conference. Facing many wonderful and some



challenging situations together, gave them a diversity of memoirs to hold within their hearts. Sr. Weymark's tireless service for the Lord is reflected in all that she has done and continues to do for Him. Her lifetime of service to the Lord has been an inspiration to many.



Even now at this 'young age' of 90 years, Sr. Weymark's dedication to the Elim Health Shop and Elim Heights Youth Camp is admirable. We thank the Lord for His care towards her and may He continue to grant her more wonderful years ahead. We thank God for the privilege of having her in our lives.

Many a time we fail to express how much you are appreciated Sr. Weymark, yet your acts of kindness clearly reveal the wonderful person you are.

For all you do and all you are, we greatly love and thank you!

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31.

~ Lidia Voncina

Rental Available - Queensland

Near Glasshouse Mountains (Sunshine Coast Qld), near Beerwah

Shared House - \$310/per week

Own 3 bedrooms (all with robes)
Own bathroom, WC
Shared kitchen (with own utensils)
Shared large dining and lounge (furnished)
Shared laundry (bring your own washing machine)
Share power and water.
No pets

End of Cul-de-Sac
Half acre landscaped gardens backing onto acres of pine forest.
Very quiet and peaceful neighborhood with access to good walks.

Property situated:
Within 20-25 minutes of beaches and large shopping centers.
Within 10 minutes to local town, doctors, chemist, Target, IGA, Aldi, Post Office, News agency, etc.
Train station about a km, (40 minutes trip to Brisbane)

For more information contact Pierre and Danielle:
Phone: (07) 54960282 / Mob: 0408 958 508 / e-mail: hha4@bigpond.com

General Conference New Year Letter 2021

A merchant once came to a village selling small stones he claimed would glow at night. Each stone came in a fancy wooden box. By the time the merchant left the village, he had sold quite a few of the precious stones.

People who could afford a stone gathered family and neighbors at their homes at sunset in excited anticipation to see the stone glow. But what a disappointment when darkness came, and the stone did not glow!

That night, the village inhabitants went to sleep disappointed and feeling deceived by the merchant.

The next morning, one buyer was looking at the stone's box with despondency when he flipped the small box and saw a note of instruction: *"For this stone to glow at night, expose it first to the sun's great light."*

The news quickly spread throughout the village, and everyone who exposed their stone to the sun during the day happily enjoyed the glowing of their stone at night.

The Word of God tells us that God is our sun and shield (Psalm 84:11) and Christ is the Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2) who brings healing to our souls.

How Can We Shine?

God calls us to shine in this dark world (Matthew 5:16). But we do not have light of ourselves with which to shine; for us to shine, we need to first receive the light of the Sun of Righteousness in our lives.

"As the flower turns to the sun, that the bright beams may aid in perfecting its beauty and symmetry, so should we turn to the Sun of Righteousness, that heaven's light may shine upon us, that our character may be developed into the likeness of Christ." Steps to Christ, p. 68.

We must shine by living up to the Bible principles, thus showing to those around us that our kingdom is not from this world. But we can only do this if we are connected to Jesus:

"... for without me, ye can do nothing," John 15:5.

The inhabitants of the village learned that the more they exposed the stone to the sun, the more it would shine at night. The same is true for us. The more we expose ourselves to the Sun of Righteousness, the more we will shine for the glory of God.

"Shall the Sun of Righteousness shine in vain? In view of what God has done, could His claims be less upon you?" Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 198.

May we allow the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with the light of the gracious love of Christ so we will manifest His light in our actions every day of this New Year.

Your brother in The Blessed Hope,

Eli Tenorio.



History Video Now Available

A history lesson entitled "Origin of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement" was released in December, 2020. Viewable in resolutions all the way up to 4K, it shows original documents and photographs of the early history of the SDARM.

You can find it on our YouTube channel at:

www.youtube.com/SDARMAustralasia



Upcoming Events



GC Online Canvassing Seminar, Pacific Edition

Date: 18-20 March, 2021

View online: www.youtube.com/SDARMAustralasia



NSW Regional Camp-out

Date: 2-5 April, 2021

Venue: R&M Wiseman Farm, Coleambally, NSW

Contact: pchapman@sdarm.org.au



NSW Spiritual Conference

Date: 11-14 June, 2021

Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp

Contact: info@sdarm.org.au

Education Department Conference

Date: 24-28 December, 2021

Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp

Contact: info@sdarm.org.au

GoodTidings News, a newsletter of the
Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement,
Australasian Union Conference
PO Box 132, Riverstone NSW 2765, Australia
Tel: (02) 9627 7553

Email: goodtidings@sdarm.org.au

Web: www.sdarm.org.au

Editor: Nathan Tyler

Associate Editor: Lidia Voncina

Follow us on:

www.facebook.com/sdarm.auc

www.youtube.com/sdarmaustralasia

This is the freely distributed PDF and print
version of Good Tidings News.

To subscribe by email, go to
www.sdarm.org.au/latest/gt/